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20. — *History of the United States, from the Discovery of the American Continent.* By GEORGE BANCROFT. Vol. VII. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1858. 12mo. pp. 435.

WE hope in our next number to make this volume the text of an extended article, and shall therefore notice it now with the utmost brevity. It comprises the most eventful period of our history, that from May, 1774, to the termination of the Bunker Hill battle, or from the time when altered relations with the mother country were inevitable, to the conflict which, not indeed as our fathers saw, but as we see, made separation from her certain. The painstaking minuteness of detail involved in transactions that have left such copious materials for history, would have made almost any other writer dull; in Mr. Bancroft it has only repressed the tendency to an oratorical style, without impairing the vividness of his portraiture or checking the vivacity of his narrative. Of course, in times that have bequeathed to us their favoritisms and animosities, there is room for dissent from some of the historian's views as to the relative importance of different agencies in the common cause, and such dissent, so far as we find ground for it, we reserve the liberty of expressing and defending.

21. — *History of the Origin, Formation, and Adoption of the Constitution of the United States; with Notices of its Principal Framers.* By GEORGE TICKNOR CURTIS. Vol. II. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1858. 8vo. pp. 653.

THE contributor who has promised to review this work is now absent from the country, and we await his return for an adequate exhibition of its merits. Meanwhile we would say, that in fulness and explicitness of detail, clearness of method, impartiality of statement, and the pervading spirit of reverence and love for the Constitution and the Union, Mr. Curtis has equalled the highest expectations of his friends and the demands of the theme. His History must take its place among the standard works in its department; and while it will be read with unflagging interest, its copious index fits it to be a permanent reference-book as to the whole ground that it covers. In these days of latitudinarian construction, we cannot overestimate the importance of easy access to the fountains of our fundamental law, and those fountains lie beyond and above the Constitution itself, in the *animus* of its founders, as expressed in their debates, claims, concessions, and compromises.